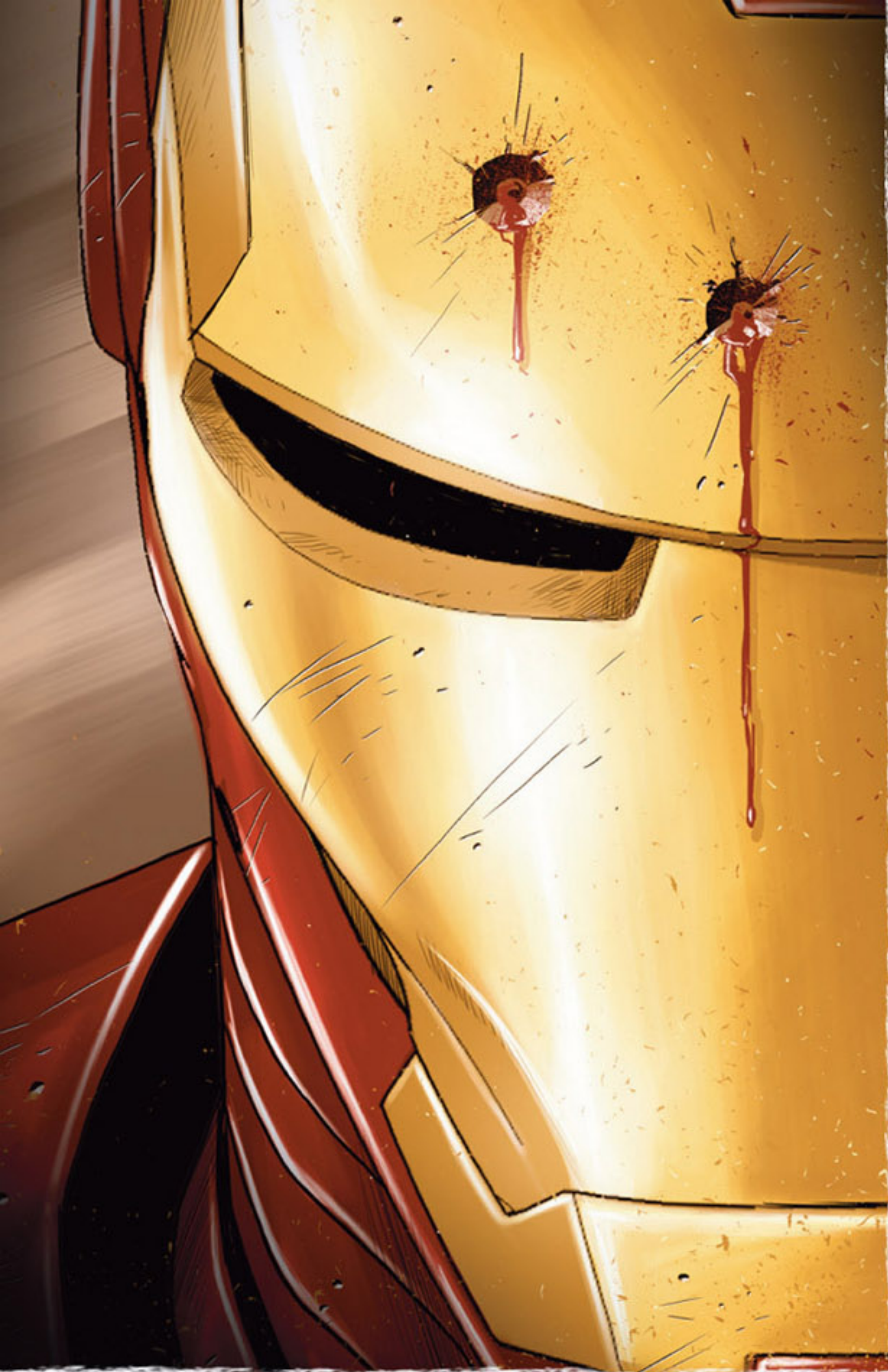
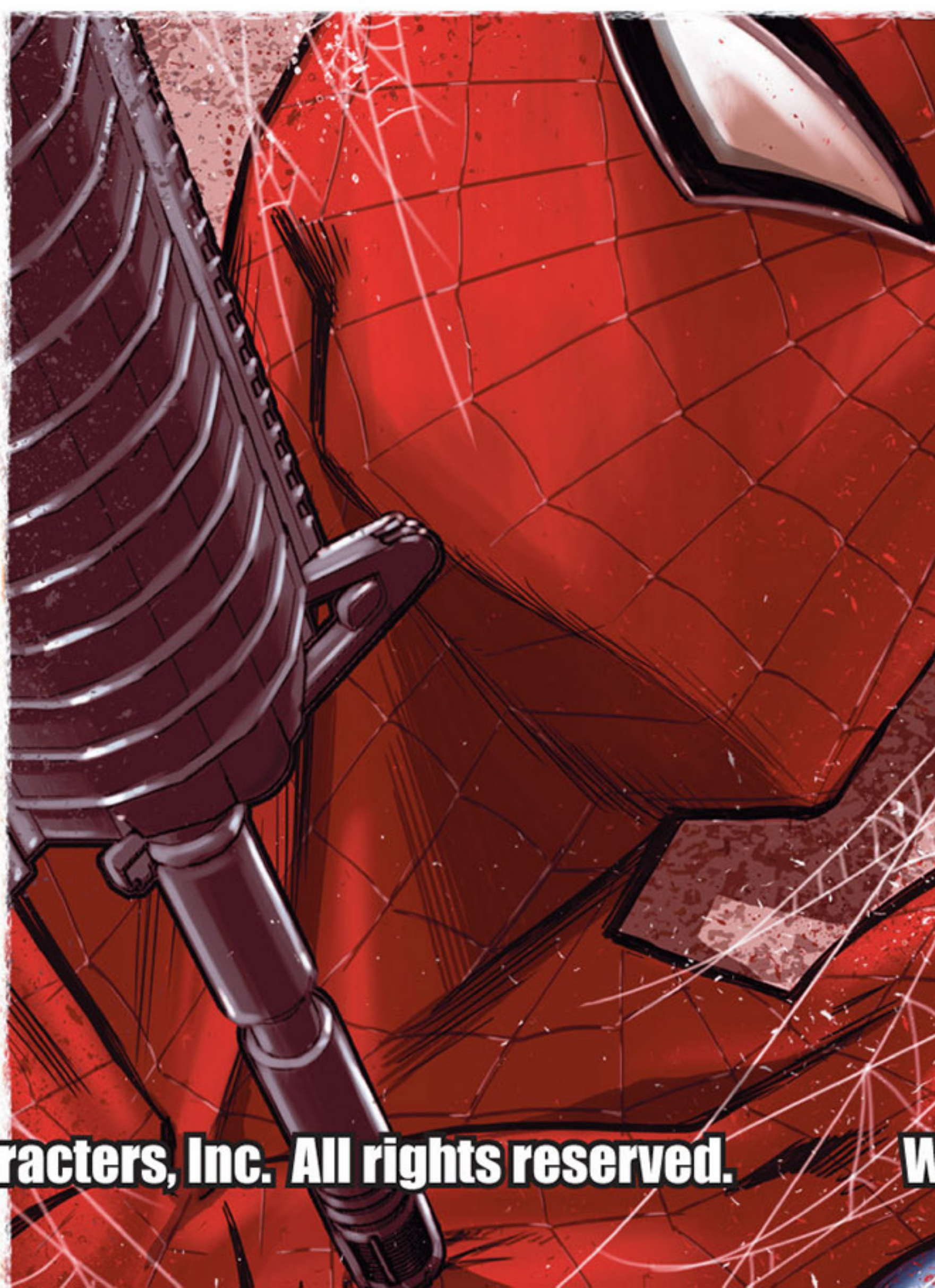




PUNISHER

WAR ZONE



RUCKA
DI GIANDOMENICO
HOLLINGSWORTH

MARVEL

**LIMITED
SERIES**

1 OF 5

PARENTAL ADVISORY

**INSIDE: THE MAN BEHIND SPIDER-MAN! DRUGLORD DRIED OUT!
NASA UNDER ATTACK: ASTRONOMICAL CARNAGE!**

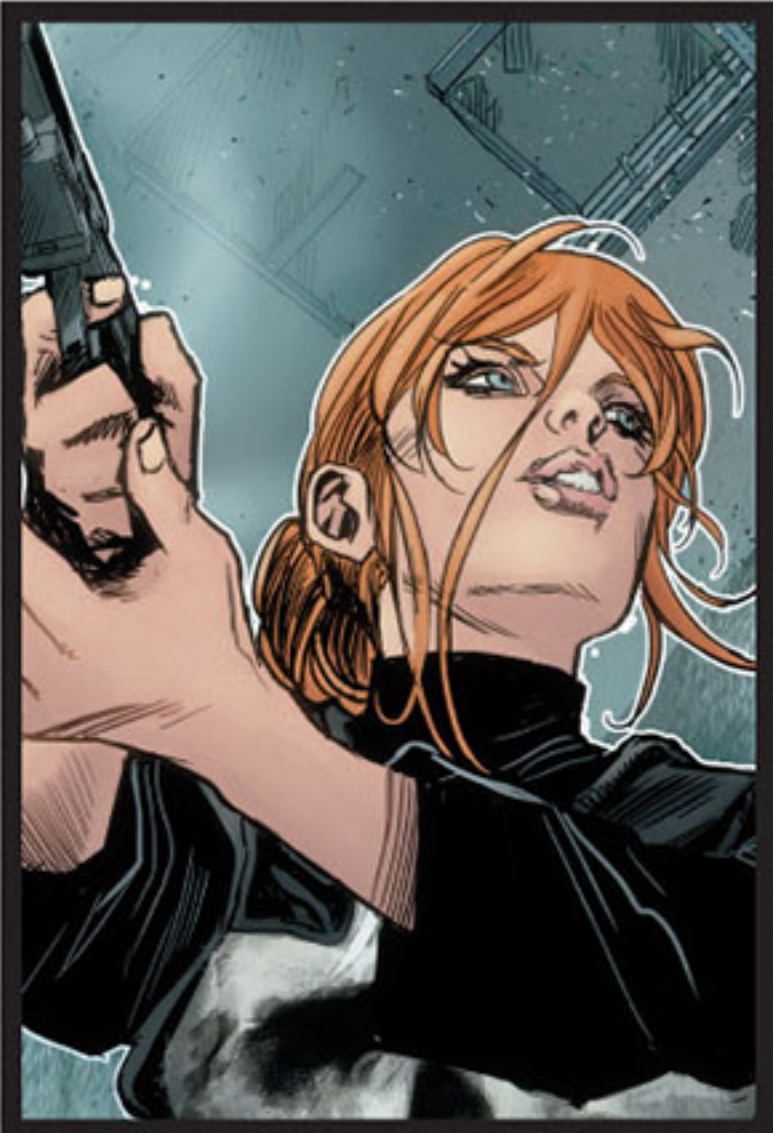


ACCOMPLICE ARRESTED

By Norah Winters

Marine Sergeant Rachel Cole-Alves was arraigned today in connection with the explosive violence that rocked Wall Street last week, resulting in over twenty dead, including three brave members of the NYPD. Attorney Matt Murdock entered a plea of not guilty on his client's behalf, while Cole-Alves remained silent throughout the proceedings. Cole-Alves will be held at Rikers Island until trial, date to be determined.

Working with the Punisher, Cole-Alves is accused of hunting and then destroying members of the criminal organization known as The Exchange. While the NYPD confirms that The Exchange has apparently ceased operation, District Attorney Cyrus Barger showed no sympathy to the veteran Marine following the proceedings. (CONT. ON PG. 3)



WHAT REALLY HAPPENED

By Janna O'Shea

The Punisher's assault on The Exchange was a textbook example of military doctrine and vigilante audacity. Here are the events as the NYPD has reconstructed them.

- 1) The Punisher takes position in the building opposite The Exchange offices on Wall Street.
- 2) The Punisher uses a high-powered rifle to penetrate and shatter the windows into the offices.
- 3) The Punisher, utilizing an unknown device to swing between buildings, enters the office of Doctor Stephanie Gerard.
- 4) Using tear gas to control the security, the Punisher proceeds to systematically execute everyone he encounters inside.

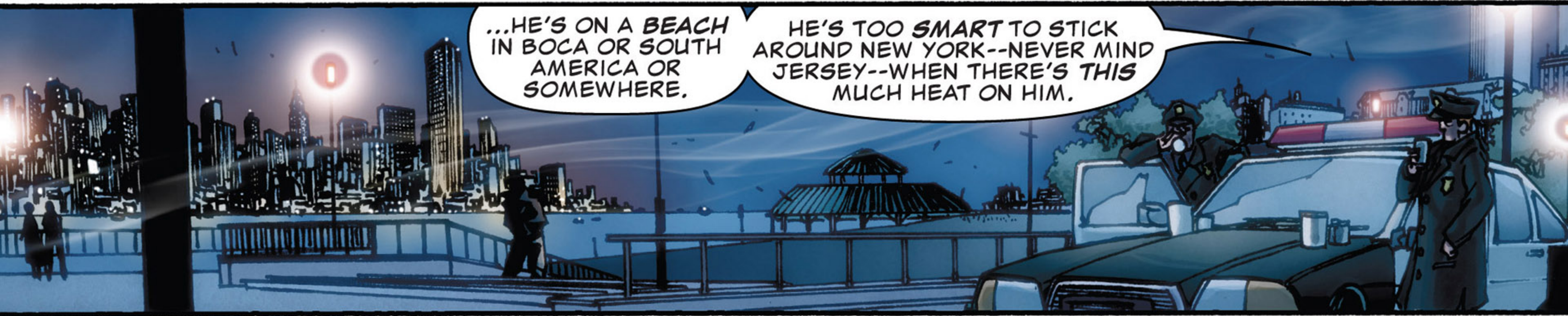
GREG RUCKA WRITER	CARMINE DI GIANDOMENICO ART	MATT HOLLINGSWORTH COLOR ART	VC'S JOE CARAMAGNA LETTERER	MARCO CHECCHETTO COVER	
ELLIE PYLE ASSISTANT EDITOR	STEPHEN WACKER EDITOR	AXEL ALONSO EDITOR IN CHIEF	JOE QUESADA CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER	DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER	ALAN FINE EXEC. PRODUCER





YOU
SAW THE
THING?

ABOUT THE
PUNISHER?
C'MON...



...HE'S ON A *BEACH*
IN BOCA OR SOUTH
AMERICA OR
SOMEWHERE.

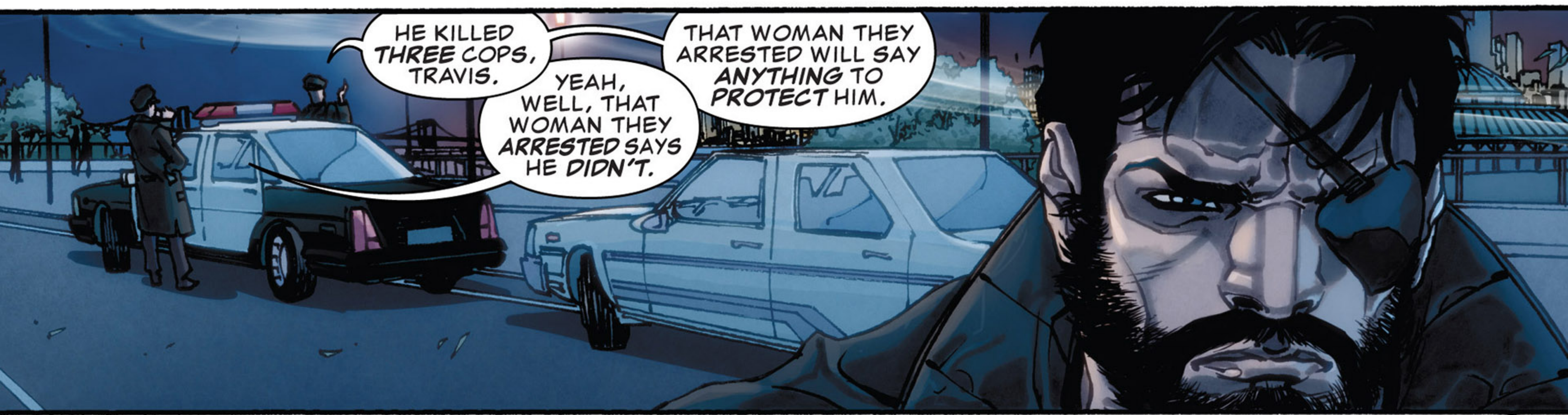
HE'S TOO *SMART* TO STICK
AROUND NEW YORK--NEVER MIND
JERSEY--WHEN THERE'S *THIS*
MUCH HEAT ON HIM.



I HOPE
YOU'RE
WRONG.

I HOPE HE DECIDES
HOBOKEN IS THE PLACE
TO LAY LOW AND WE'RE
THE ONES TO FIND HIM.
I KNOW HOW
THAT ENDS.

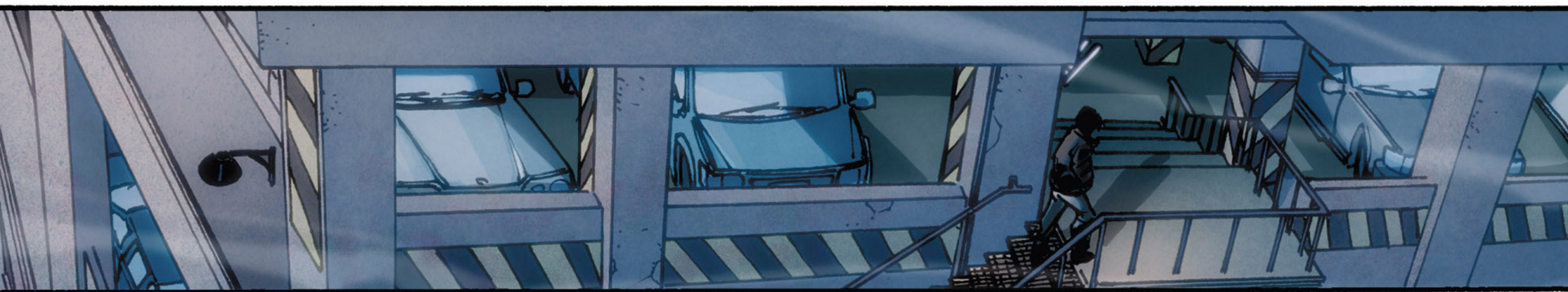
YOU
THINK YOU
KNOW HOW
THAT ENDS.

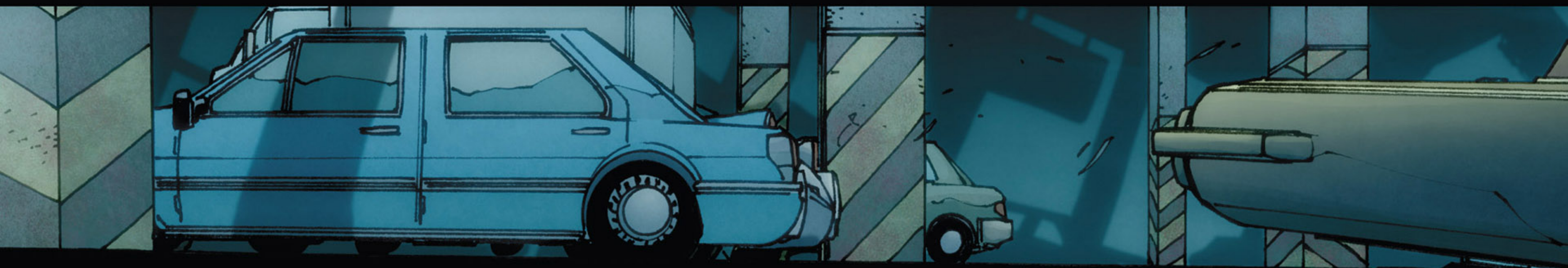
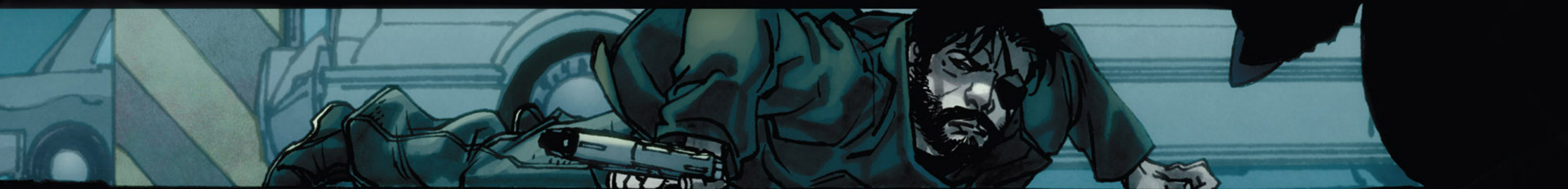


HE KILLED
THREE COPS,
TRAVIS.

YEAH,
WELL, THAT
WOMAN THEY
ARRESTED SAYS
HE DIDN'T.

THAT WOMAN THEY
ARRESTED WILL SAY
ANYTHING TO
PROTECT HIM.









...THAT
KINDA TICKS
ME OFF!



NOW.

I
PERSONALLY
THINK YOU'RE A
LUNATIC WHO NEEDS
TO BE LOCKED UP
UNTIL YOU EVOLVE INTO
SOMETHING MORE
RESPONSIBLE.

LIKE A
MOLLUSK.



I DON'T KNOW IF
YOU KILLED THOSE
PEOPLE OR NOT. I
REALLY DON'T.

YOU'VE
ALWAYS GIVEN
COPS A PASS
BEFORE, BUT AS YOU
ARE A NUTJOB, YOU
MAY HAVE CHANGED
YOUR MIND.

HECK, ONE
OF THEM MAY
HAVE LOOKED
AT YOU FUNNY
OR CALLED YOU
MOO-MOO
BUNNY-LIPS.



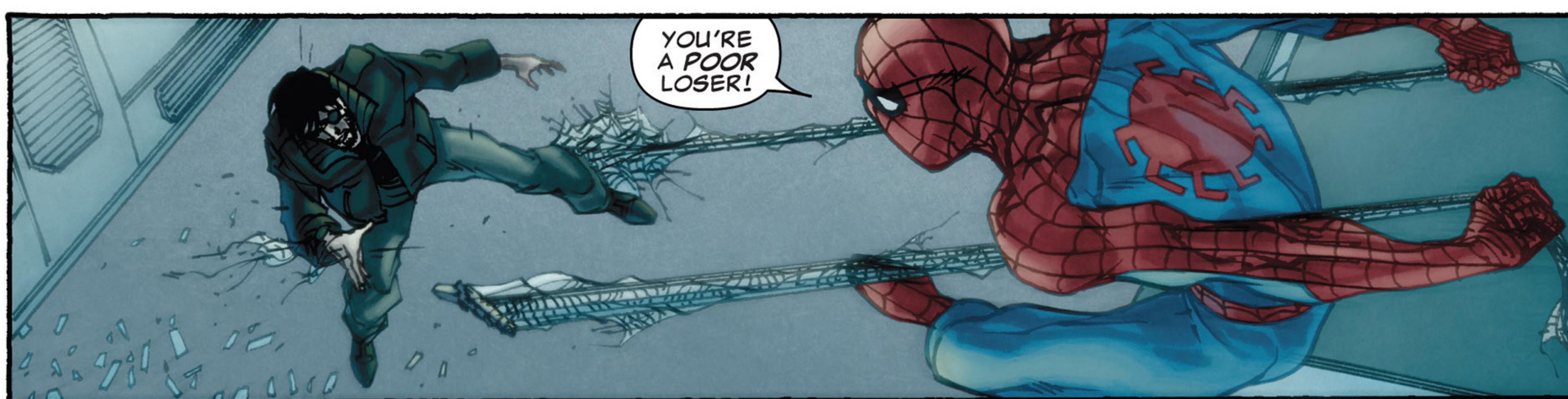
WHATEVER,
YOUR
MURDEROUS
RUN IS
OVER.

YOU
ARE OVER,
FRANK.

YOU'RE
DONE.

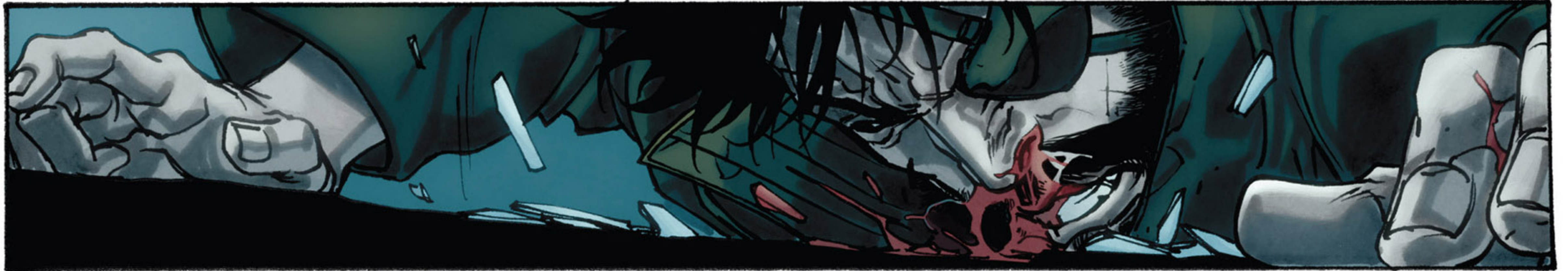


I'M
DONE WHEN
I'M DEAD,
KID.





--YOU'RE
JUST THE GUY
WHO TURNED IT
INTO AN *EXCUSE*
TO COMMIT
MURDER!

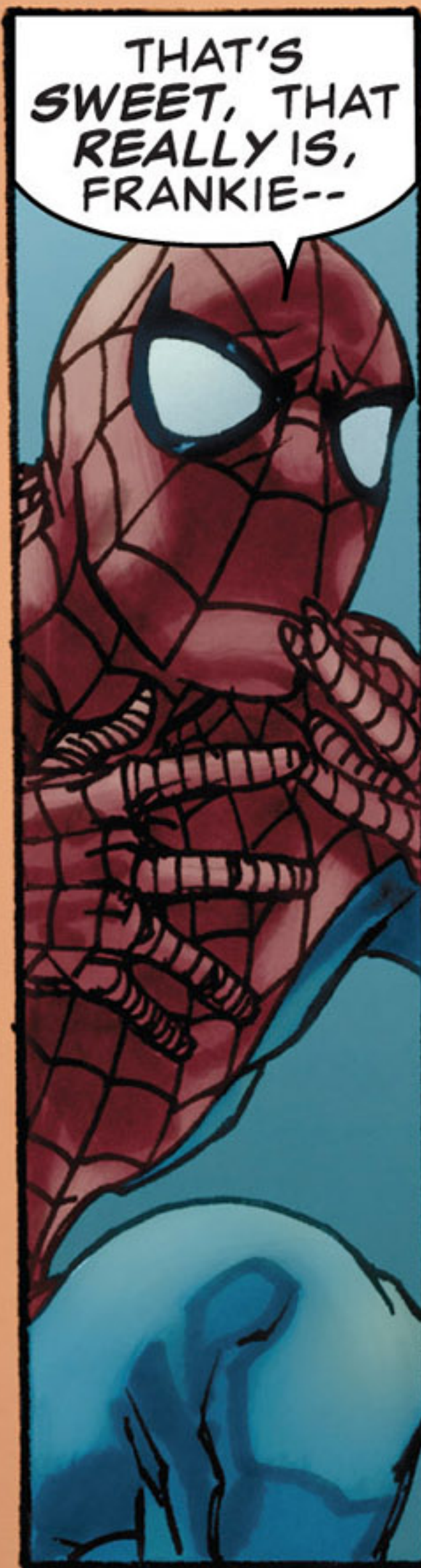


IT'S
GOT TO
STOP.

IT'S
GONE ON
TOO LONG,
MAN!



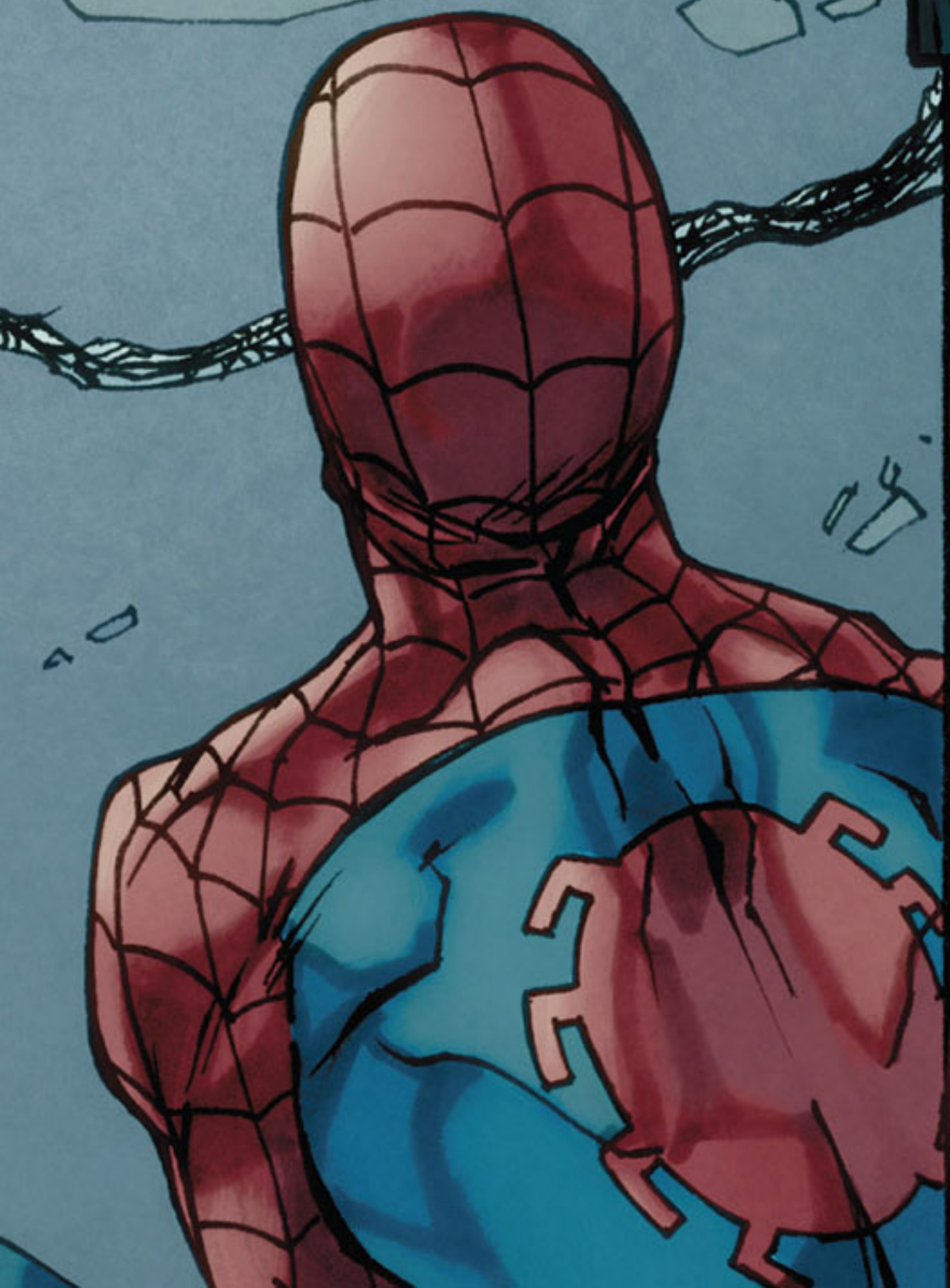
I DON'T
WANT TO
HURT
YOU.



THAT'S
SWEET, THAT
REALLY IS,
FRANKIE--



--BUT
IT'LL TAKE
MORE THAN
YOU'VE
GOT.







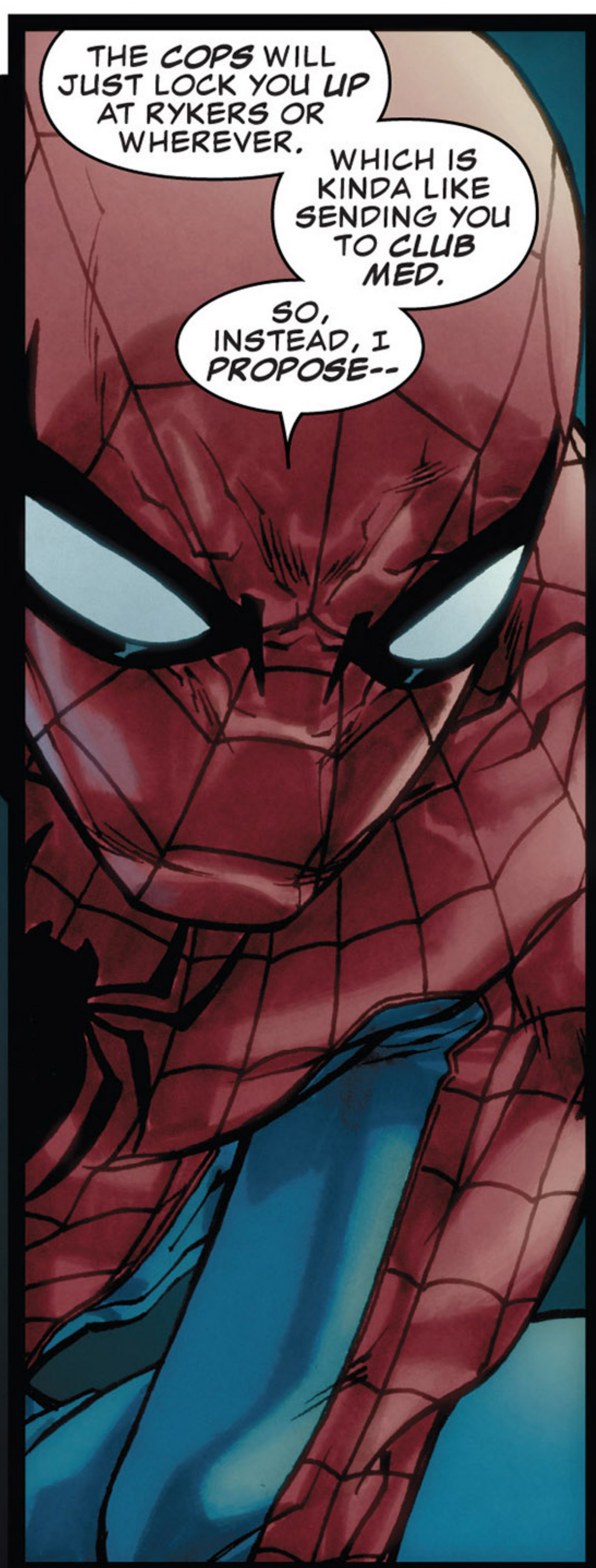
...I KNOW WHEN TO QUIT.

GNHNN



YOU LISTENING? GOOD.

HERE'S WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO:



THE COPS WILL JUST LOCK YOU UP AT RYKERS OR WHEREVER.

WHICH IS KINDA LIKE SENDING YOU TO CLUB MED.

SO, INSTEAD, I PROPOSE--



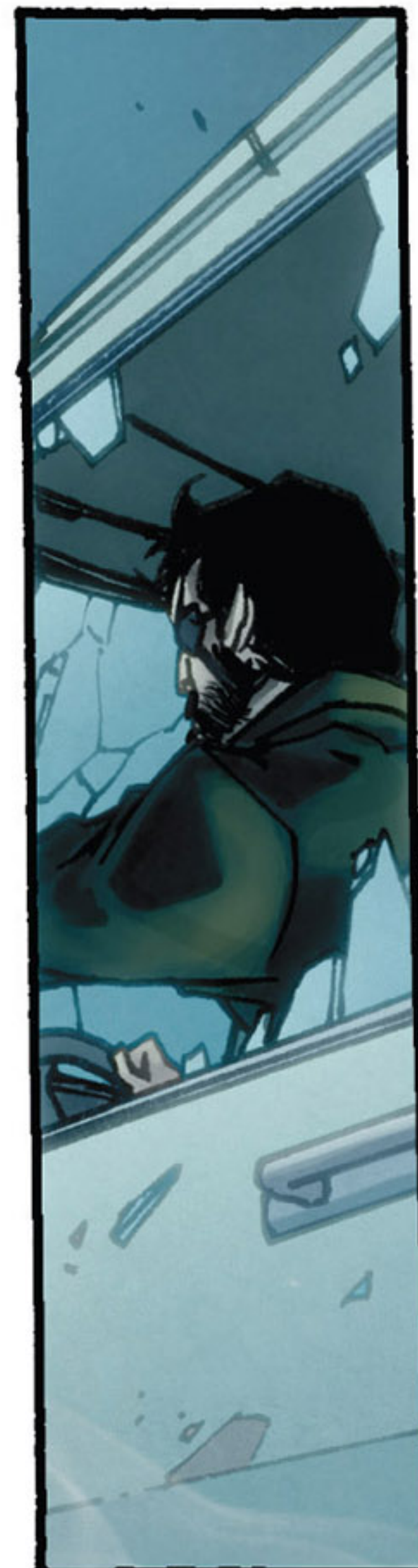
THWIP

--WHAT'RE YOU--



--WAIT--





AVENGERS
TOWER.

"...NOT
AGAIN..."

SOMETHING
BIG HAD
BETTER BE
BURNING, BLEEDING,
OR ABOUT TO
EXPLODE...

...I'M
MISSING
SPRINGSTEEN'S
SECOND
ENCORE IN
MOSCOW.

HE'S NOT
PLAYING
MOSCOW.

NOT
FOR YOU,
MAYBE.

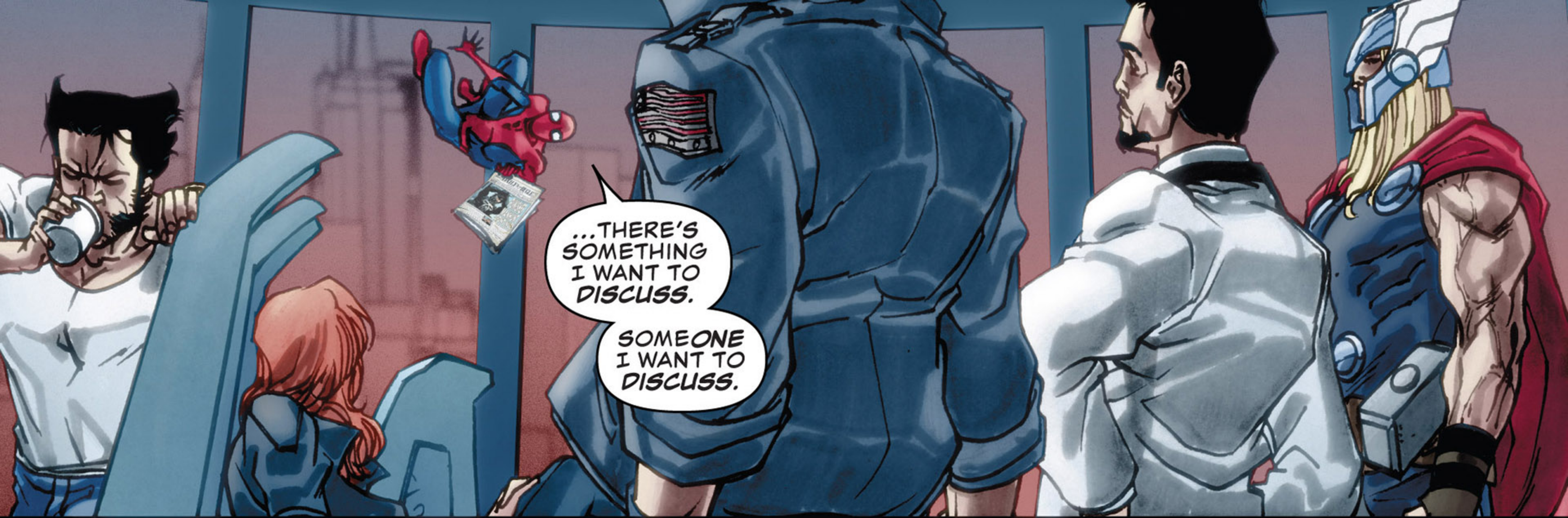
RIGHT,
SO...

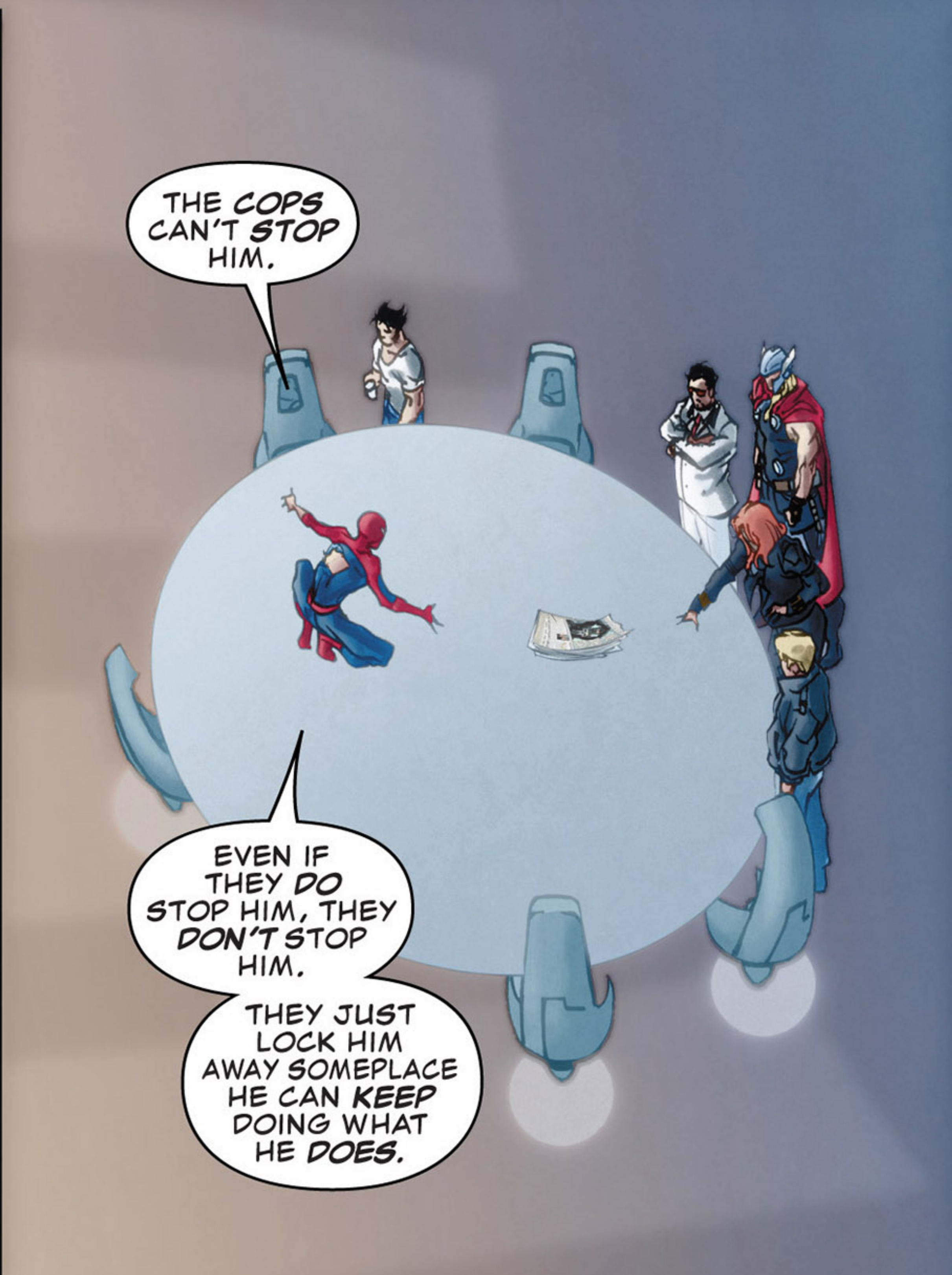
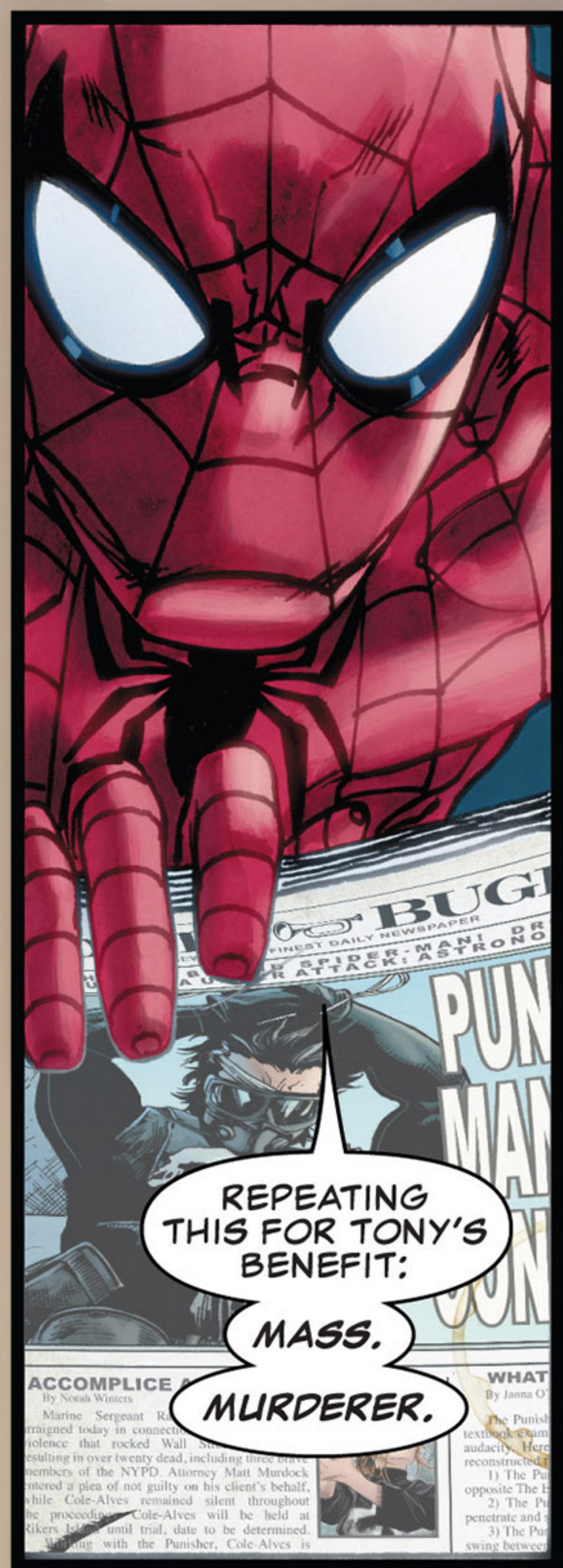
...WHAT
ARE WE
SAVING THE
WORLD FROM
THIS TIME?

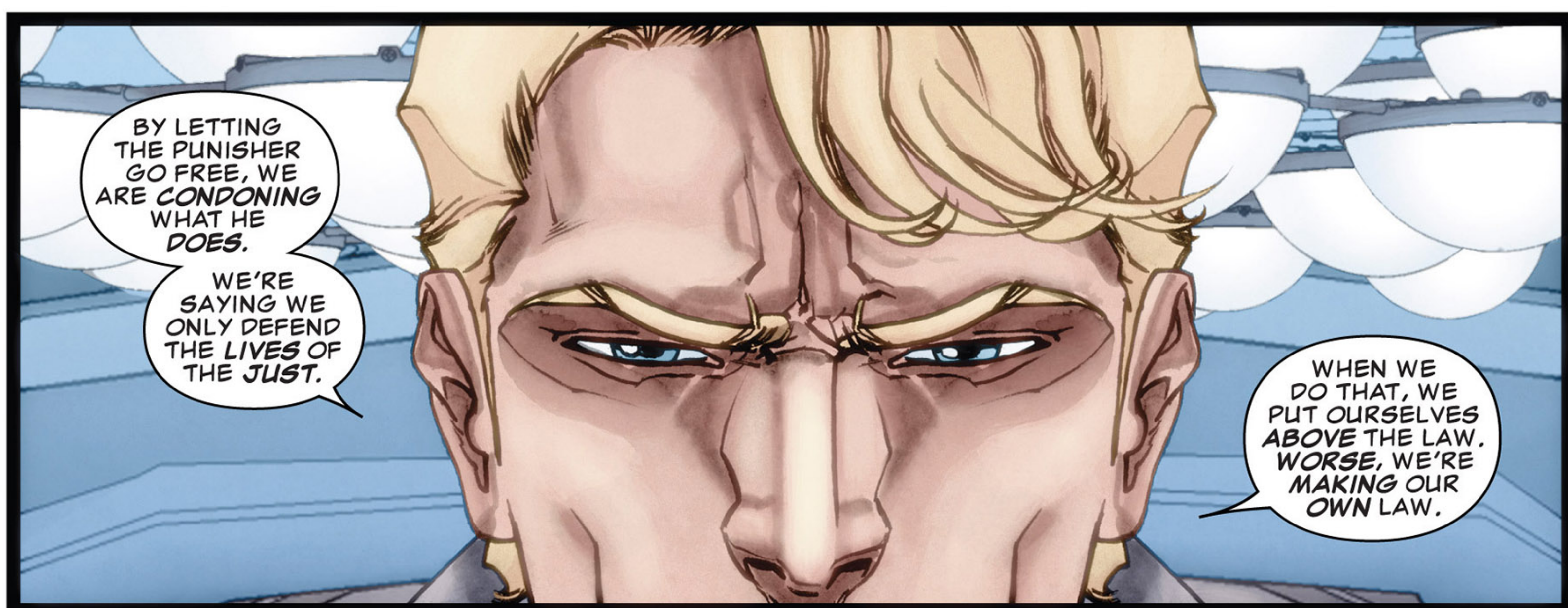
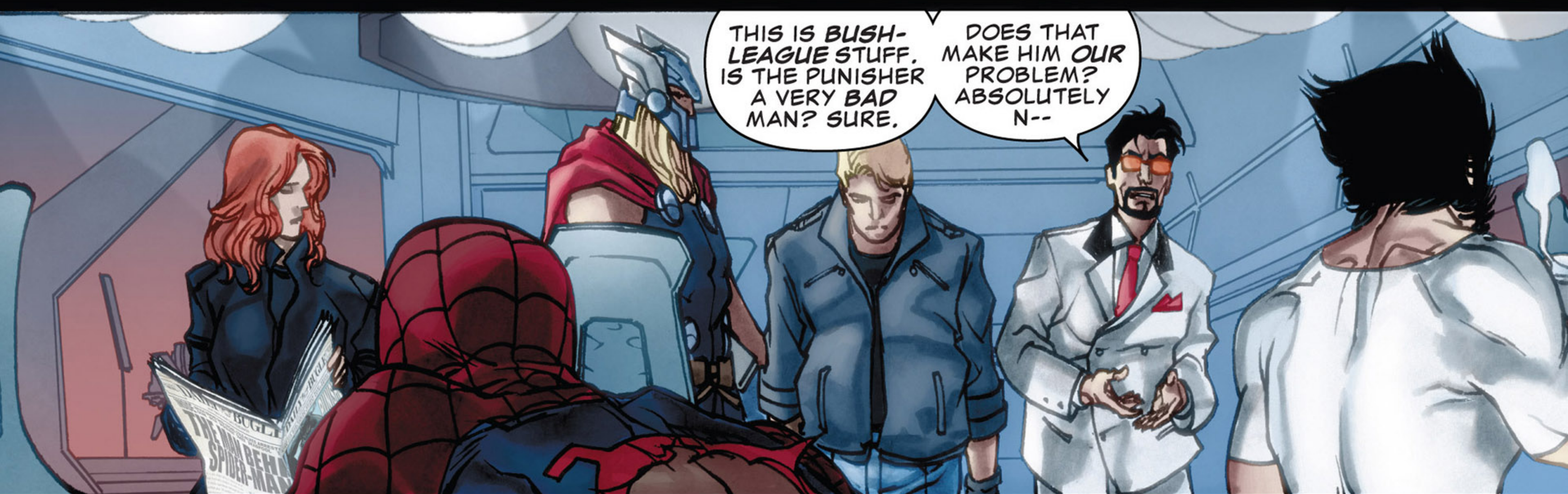
DID
YOU NOT
CALL US
TOGETHER?

NO, I
WAS IN
MOSCOW,
I JUST
SAID.

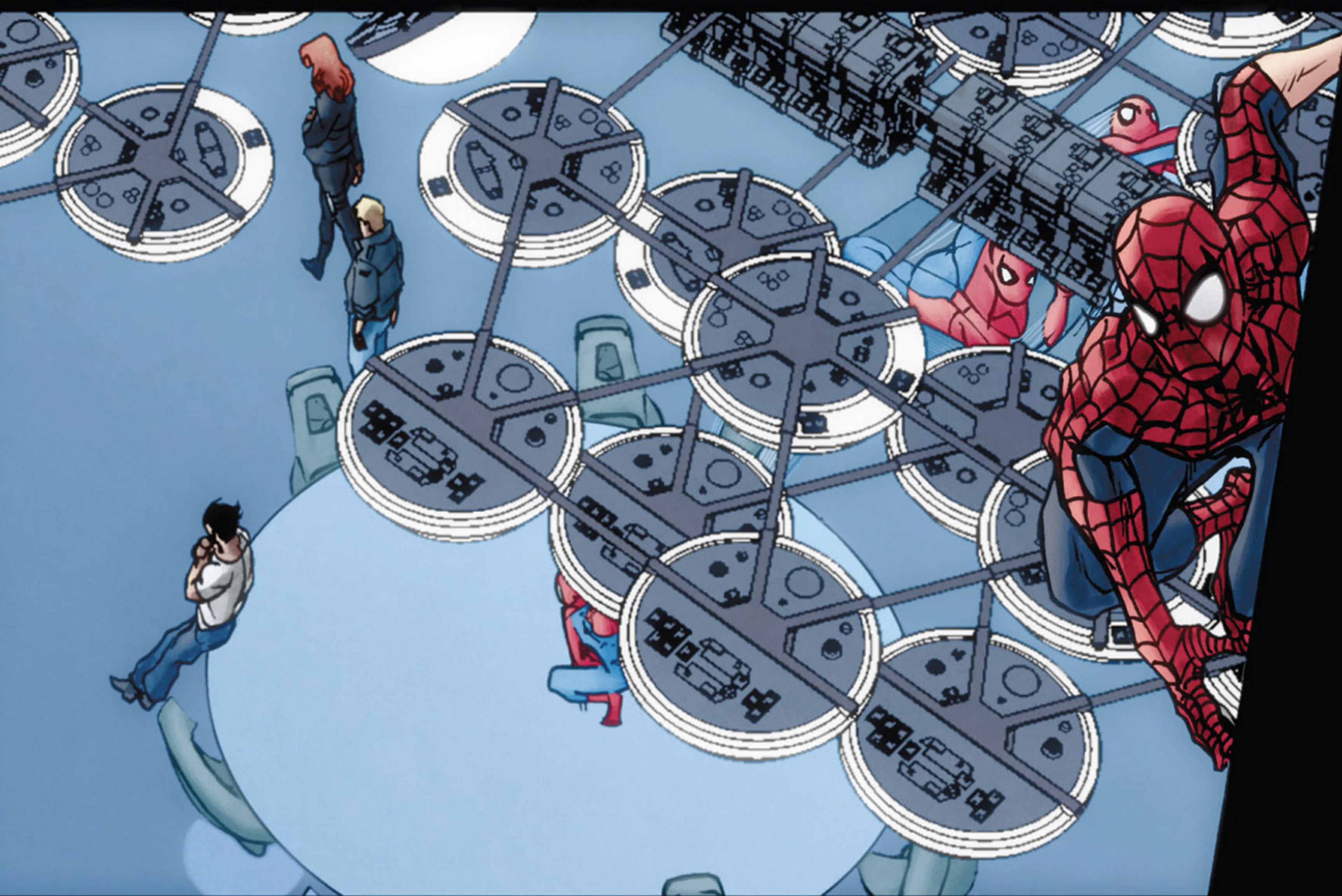
I
MADE THE
CALL...







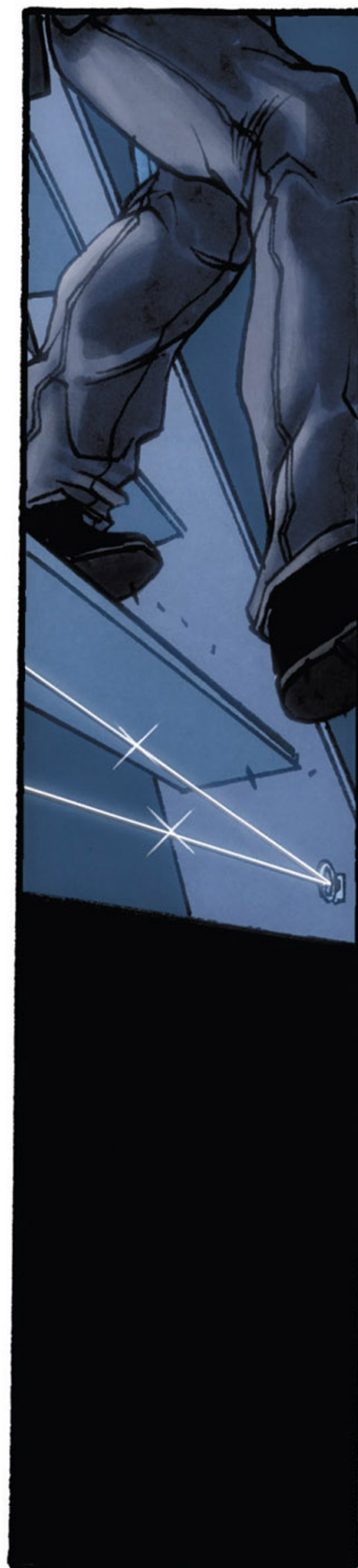
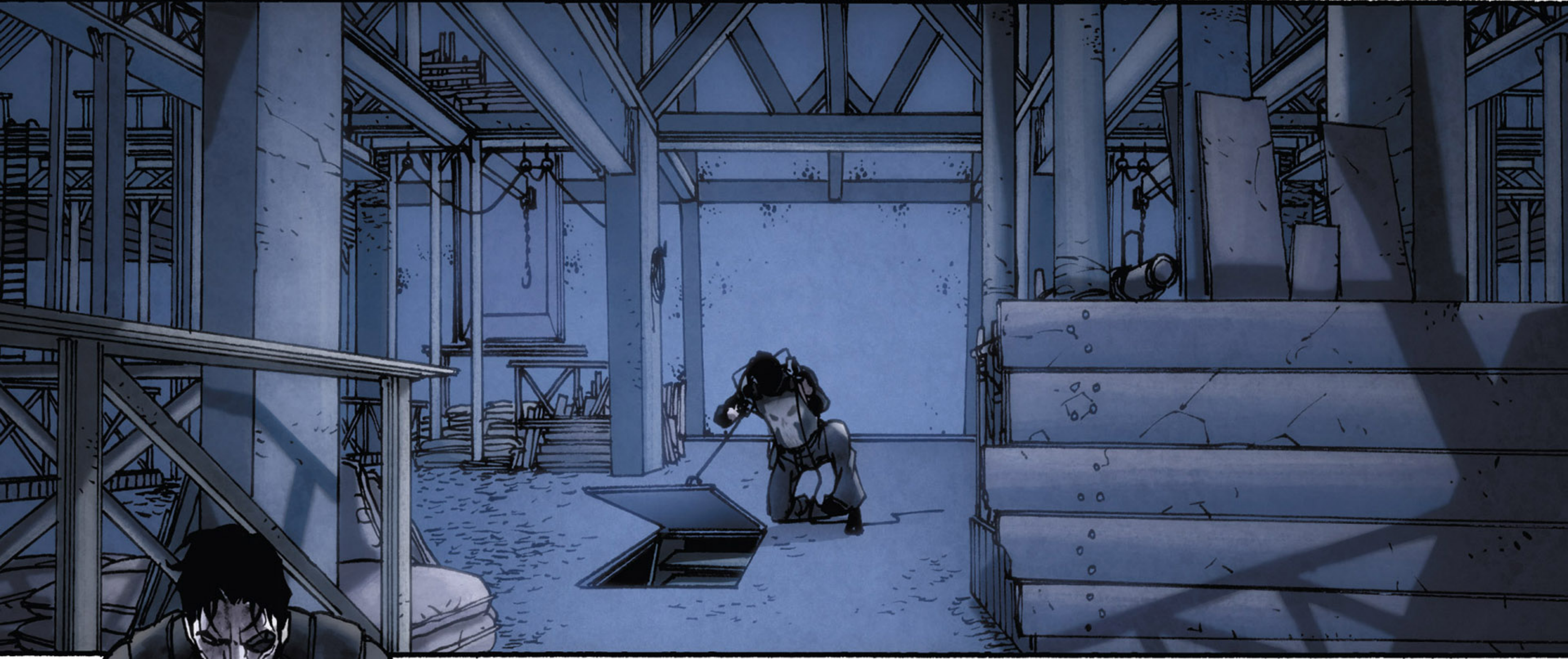






"...ME, I
BELIEVE SOME
PEOPLE DESERVE
TO DIE."

LONG ISLAND.







Send letters to:

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LET'S BE FRANK

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Welcome to the War Zone Punisher fans!

Steve, Greg, Marco, Matt, Joe and I have been overwhelmed by the response to Punisher 16 this week. I'm still sorting through all your letters and comments (keep them coming!) but wanted to make sure to take a moment to welcome Carmine Di Giandomenico to the team.

Also! Take a look at these awesome pictures from Punisher fan Mike Powell at Heroes Con in Charlotte, North Carolina.



Now that's good parenting! And on the topic of deadly redheads...stay tuned next month for The Punisher vs. Black Widow as only Greg Rucka can write it.

Said with a smile,
Ellie Pyle



